SAMPLE: PRAYERS
Setting Intentions

To help set a meaningful or reflective tone for the Committee's work, consider beginning meetings with:

- a moment of silence
- a group meditation
- a short kavanah or reflection
- a prayer (such as one of the two listed below) .

Additional resources, including a *meshaberach* or prayer for healing for those affected by child maltreatment, can be found on Ritualwell. Of course, while prayer is commonplace in many Jewish organizations, some organizations may prefer to choose an intention that is not rooted in Jewish liturgy.

What of the suggestions provided above, the resources on Ritualwell, or practices that already exist in your organization, might your Committee adapt?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Best Practice 1
Form a Child Safety Committee

Goal 2
Onboard your Committee

OBJECTIVES
Review sample prayers and choose how your Committee will begin meetings with intention.

AUDIENCE
Child Safety Committee

TIME
1 hour to review, discuss, and adapt

SAMPLE PRAYER FOR COMMITTEE WORK

There are competing values that may arise when developing a comprehensive child protection plan. This prayer helps to remind Committees of their core guiding value — protecting children.

יהי רצון מלפניך ה׳ אלוקינו שתברך ועדה זו ועבודתה כאן היום, שתצליח בידינו לייצר
נהלים המגינים על ילדינו. עזור לנו לזכור שבעדיפות עליונה עלינו להגן על בניך ובנותיך הרכים, הפגיעים
והרגישים - התלויים בנו לעשות הישר עבורם ולקדש שמך בעולם.[1]

God, we ask you to bless this Committee and our work here together today/tonight, so that we can put procedures in place to protect children. We ask that you help us remember that our priority must always be to protect your children, who are so vulnerable and depend upon us to do what is right.

SAMPLE PRAYER FOR WEIGHTY DISCUSSIONS

The Talmud relates that Rabbi Neḥunya ben Hakana would relate the following prayer — that he not err in his judgments of halakha, Jewish law — upon his entrance to the beit medrash, or study hall. Today it appears on the inside cover of Artscroll's printings of the Talmud (Schottenstein Editions). This language, or an adapted version, may resonate with your Committee, particularly when meeting to discuss sensitive issues or handle weighty decisions.

יהי רצון מלפניך ה׳ אלקי שלא יארע דבר תקלה על ידי ולא אכשל בדבר הלכה וישמחו בי חברי ולא אומר על טמא
טהור ולא על טהור טמא ולא יכשלו חברי בדבר הלכה ואשמח בהם. כי ה׳ יתן חכמה מפיו דעת ותבונה.

"May it be your will, Hashem, my God, that an offense not come about through me, and may I not stumble in a matter of Halakha and cause my colleagues to rejoice over me. May I not pronounce anything pure that is impure, or impure that is pure, and may my colleagues not stumble in a matter of Halakha, and I rejoice over them. For Hashem grants wisdom; from God's mouth comes knowledge and understanding."

1 Translation provided by Rabba Dr. Anat Sharbat